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INDIANA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF HISTORY

Indiana State Library, Indianapolis
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GEORGE S. COTTMAN, *Editor*

EDITORIAL.

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At the regular annual meeting of the Indiana Historical Society the officers of 1912 were re-elected. These are: Daniel Wait Howe, president; Charles W. Moores, first vice-president; W. E. English, second vice-president; J. A. Woodburn, third vice-president; Charles E. Coffin, treasurer; J. P. Dunn, recording secretary; C. B. Coleman, corresponding secretary. Members of the executive committee are: John H. Holliday, Addison C. Harris, Charles Martindale, George S. Cottman and Miss Eliza G. Browning.

Sundry items of business came before the meeting.

A sum not to exceed \$100 was voted to cover any deficit that might occur in the publishing of this magazine for the year 1913.

A committee was appointed to present a plan whereby the publications of the Historical Society can be properly distributed and exchanges for similar publications be effected.

A committee was appointed, also, to consider a plan, suggested by the American Historical Association, for the co-operation of our State and local historical societies in securing the calendaring and indexing of the French archives relating to the Mississippi Valley.

The annual dues of the society were raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00. Each member hereafter will receive this magazine free; also the pamphlet publications of the society.

FIRST WHITE CHILD IN INDIANA.

A recent newspaper item hailing from Columbus, Indiana, tells of a grave tablet just lettered there with the following in-

scription: "First white child born in Indiana; John Henry Kluge, born at an Indian station at Anderson on December 31, 1805, and died at Hope on November 20, 1898." Mrs. Nathan Sparks, of Jeffersonville, sends us this clipping with the added information that her father, Burdett Clifton Pile, was born in Indiana Territory March 10, 1805, several months before Mr. Kluge, and that her uncle, Marston Green Clark Pile, said to have been the first white child native to Clark county, was born November 1, 1802, in old Fort Finney, afterward called Fort Steuben, which marked the first settlement of Jeffersonville. The father of these two boys was Richard Pile, a Revolutionary soldier.

The absurdity of the Kluge claim is apparent when we remember that in 1805 there had been a white settlement at Vincennes for perhaps seventy-five years, and even if the claim was that of the first child of English speaking parentage the American occupancy began a number of years before 1805. According to the St. Clair papers, there were about four hundred Americans in Vincennes as early as 1787. In 1800 there were, as nearly as can be estimated, about 2,500 inhabitants in what is now Indiana. Hence it is tolerably certain that there were many births before 1805. Who the first white child was is not and never can be known.

A LOG CABIN MEMORIAL.

Apropos to memorial buildings there comes from Mr. Arthur Osborn, of Spiceland, a suggestion that ought to be followed. It is that a pioneer log cabin be erected on some proper spot as an object lesson to the present and future generations. This cabin should show the most primitive Hoosier habitation, such as was made before nails and hardware were easy to get, with the clapboards of the roof held in place by weight poles, separated by spacing knees; with the doors hung on wooden hinges, and the chimney built stick-and-clay fashion. To perpetuate the interest in this pioneer domicile it should be a repository of old-time household implements, many of which are now rarely found, being indeed almost forgotten.

In the list of these articles should be all kinds of fireplace cooking utensils, such as pots, hangers, hearth oven, long-handled waffle irons and frying pan, griddles, trivet, etc. There should also be pewter and some old blue china tableware, flint-lock gun with shot pouch, powder horn and bullet molds, and a deer-horn gun rack. To this list Mr. Osborn adds tinder box, fireplace tongs and shovel, hand bellows, Dutch oven, Johnny-cake board, various sized culinary vessels, dye kettle, candlesticks, candle molds, tin lantern, corded bedstead and trundle-bed, hickory broom, home-made woodenware and molds for pewter articles such as buttons, spoons, etc.; also the industrial implements, such as loom, spinning wheel, winding blades, clock reel, cards, ripple, hackle, flax break and scutching knife.

A cabin like this would be of little cost and if equipped as above suggested, would be of never-ending interest. As to its location, we would further suggest that should the ground west of the State House be purchased and the plaza scheme materialize, it would include the most appropriate of all spots, i. e., that where the McCormick cabin stood on the triangle overlooking White river, near the Washington street bridge. John McCormick is generally regarded as the first settler on the site where Indianapolis stands—he is certainly the first who can be regarded as a cause in our history; and a duplication of his cabin, as nearly as it can be reproduced, would be so fitting that one wonders why it should have escaped being a feature of the plan projected by the Centennial Commission.

FIRST MEDICAL BOOK.

Dr. G. W. H. Kemper, of Muncie, has a copy of what he thinks is the first medical book printed in Indiana. It is "Eastman's Treatise," printed at Connersville in 1845. The author was one Dr. Buell Eastman, who came from Cincinnati to Connersville in 1844, and was a resident there for about two years.

LEGISLATION ON INDIANA'S CENTENNIAL.

The popular sentiment for some proper and adequate celebration in 1916, and for a much-needed memorial building, has been so pronounced that the three leading political parties all incorporated in their platforms explicit endorsement of such celebration. In the face of such endorsement in its platform, our Democratic Legislature deliberately killed off, one after another, three bills that aimed to pave the way to the desired end. As a substitute, a bill was passed which will put to the general vote, in 1914, the question of celebration or no celebration. Should the vote be favorable, less than two years will remain to get the machinery in motion, and the prospects for the memorial building to be completed by the summer of 1916, even with the most favorable fortune, does not now look hopeful, unless, indeed, the public-spirited citizens of Indiana proceed to do, independent of legislative action, the thing which they believe will redound to the honor and to the benefit of the State.

CHANGES IN STATE LIBRARY.

The recent Legislature has made the State Library a departmental institution, its functions to be grouped as the Reference, the Cataloguing, the History and Archives, and the Office departments. The Legislative Reference Department, hitherto a branch of the library, has been re-established as a separate bureau, with an increased appropriation. The library appropriation was also slightly increased.